

## ABSTRACT

A method for forwarding variable length packets across a multiport switch,  
5 the method comprising the steps of: (i) checking, at each time slot, forwarding  
requests to forward variable length packets from source ports of the multiport  
switch to destination ports of the multiport switch, wherein ignoring forwarding  
requests from source ports that were previously scheduled to forward at least a  
10 portion of a variable length packet during a next time slot and ignoring forwarding  
requests from destination ports that are scheduled to receive at least a portion of  
a variable length packet during the next time slot; (ii) selecting selected  
forwarding requests out of the forwarding requests; and (iii) configuring the  
multiport switch for allowing to service the selected forwarding requests during  
the next time slot.